

25X1

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

This material contains information affecting the National Defense of the United States within the meaning of the Espionage Laws, Title 18, U.S.C. Secs. 793 and 794, the transmission or revelation of which in any manner to an unauthorized person is prohibited by law.

25X1

SECRET-US OFFICIALS ONLY

COUNTRY	USSR (Murmansk Oblast)	REPORT	
SUBJECT	Pechenga Nickel Combine Office in Murmansk and Nikel	DATE DISTR.	29 December 1954
DATE OF INFO.		NO. OF PAGES	5 25X1
PLACE ACQUIRED		REQUIREMENT NO.	RD
		REFERENCES	

This is UNEVALUATED

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

- On 28 September 1953, source took a bus from Lekhta (N 64-25, E 33-58) to the station of Sosnovets (N 64-22, E 34-29) on the rail line to Murmansk (N 68-58, E 33-05). He left Sosnovets at 0100 hours and arrived in Murmansk on 29 September at about 2220-2230 hours. The city is located in a depression. The railroad station is a dark, dirty frame building; a fine, new station building is under construction, however. The main street is located about 500 kilometers from the station, passes a number of irregular frame buildings, and connects with a street which is parallel to the rail line. Source does not know the name of the street. The Arktika Hotel is located there. The hotel only receives guests who are summoned to Murmansk and who have special business there. Source went back to the railroad station and stayed over night in a large waiting room, where he sat on a bench together with numerous other persons.
- The next morning source saw a poster in the waiting room which announced that the Pechenga Nickel Combine (Pechengskiy Nikelkombinat) needed workers. Source immediately went to the office of the combine. It is located on a street which is perpendicular to the street on which the Arktika Hotel is located. It is, however, a considerable distance south of the hotel. Source does not know the exact address of the combine.
- In the anteroom of the combine office, source met a woman typist who was about forty years of age. He asked to speak with the chief of the combine, indicating that he was seeking work. She said, however, that, before source could apply for work there at all, he would have to report to the militia and

25X1

SECRET/US OFFICIALS ONLY

STATE	X	ARMY	X	NAVY	X	AIR	X	FBI		AEC		ORRev	X		
-------	---	------	---	------	---	-----	---	-----	--	-----	--	-------	---	--	--

(NOTE: Washington distribution indicated by "X"; Field distribution by "#".)

SECRET-US OFFICIALS ONLY

-2-

25X1

be registered. In order to accomplish this, source would have to show that he had a place to live in Murmansk. He answered that he did not have a place and had no friends and asked her if she could help him. She told him that on Polar Dawn Street (sic: ulitsa Polyarnyki Zory) there were a number of places which took in lodgers. She suggested that he go to No. _____ on this street to try to get a room. Afterward he would have to bring his landlord to the militia to register and have his passport properly stamped.

4. After a good deal of looking, source found the recommended house. The landlord was a common worker. Source was well received and when he asked the price for a room, the landlord answered that the rent would be whatever source was able to pay. They agreed on 10 rubles a day room rent. The next day source registered at the militia office.
5. When source returned to the combine office the interviewer asked him what kind of work he could do and source answered that he was not physically capable of manual labor. Source was told that there was a position open in Nikel (N 69-33, E 31-12) for a custodian of a materials warehouse. Source agreed to take this job. When source came out to the outer office, the woman typist requested him to fill out an application for work. She then gave him two other forms (questionnaire form in duplicate), which he filled out. The form was to be attached to the application for a propusk (pass) for Pechengskiy Rayon, which he also filled out at the same time. As an attachment to this application he furnished a small passport picture. He had two of these along with him from home. The questionnaire forms he filled out contained only general questions on his personal history, family, home community, where he had come from, etc. The typist then gave him an order admitting him to Polyclinic No. 3, which is located on prospekt Stalina. This order was a requisition for a medical examination which was to establish whether source was suited to living in an arctic climate. He presented the order at the clinic and received in return a numbered slip and instructions to appear for an examination the next day. On the following day he appeared in compliance with his instructions and was examined by a young woman doctor. He took off all his clothes and underwent an ordinary physical examination, which included an examination of blood pressure, chest, heart, throat, etc. The doctor wrote the results of the examination on the order, which she retained and sent to the combine. She took no specimens, not even a urine specimen, and there was no chest X-ray. Source was examined only by one doctor.
6. At the combine source was told that he had to wait for the decision on his application for a propusk. He would be summoned to the militia headquarters. He did not receive a summons until the evening of 15 October; it instructed him to present himself at militia headquarters (Upravleniye Militsii Murmanskoy). On the morning of 16 October source appeared at the militia office. He was told that he had to come back in the afternoon, since passes were issued only between 1600 to 1700. This he did, and he received his propusk.
7. From 3 to 16 October source had nothing to do. He spent the time at home, reading newspapers, walking around on the streets, etc. Once he went to a movie. He thinks the theater was named "Rodina" (The Fatherland), but is not positive about this. Regarding the port, source is not able to say anything except that there was much traffic, many cranes, and numerous vessels loading and unloading. He saw no warships but he saw many sailors and ships' officers in the town.
8. Source stated that nothing definite had been agreed upon regarding the conditions of the position which he was to obtain as materials custodian. Good pay and

SECRET/US OFFICIALS ONLY

SECRET-US OFFICIALS ONLY

25X1

-3-

working conditions were promised. For industrial workers and others who work in direct production there is a pay system with various bonuses for output. This does not apply to office workers and functionaries. Through conversations with others (not at the combine office), source learned that he would receive a polar bonus because he was going to work north of the Arctic Circle. He got no more details on how big the bonus was, or when or how it would be paid. Source does not recall the designation of the combine office. He believes that it is only a hiring office for the Pechenga Nickel Combine and that it is only concerned with providing manpower for the combine. The woman typist shared the office with a man about 45 years of age who wore glasses. He was short, very ordinary looking, and of no definite ethnic origin. The woman, who appeared to be about 40 years of age, was slender, dark, and had straight combed-back hair; she had no typical racial characteristics either. She spoke Russian perfectly and source thinks that she was a Great Russian.

9. Source did not return to the combine office after he had received his propusk. It had been made clear that if he received his propusk he was accepted for work and could travel to Nikel (N 69-33, E 31-12); if not, the combine had no job for him. Source stated that no letter of recommendation from the combine office in Murmansk to the office in Nikel was needed. His application for work and the physician's declaration were to be sent by the combine to the combine's personnel office (otdel kadrov) in Nikel. Source had not received any advance pay at the combine office; he had managed to get along on the money he had brought from home, plus the 150 rubles he got when he sold a pair of shoes in the waiting room of the railroad station in Murmansk.
10. During conversations later, source heard that he would not have needed to go to the office of the combine in Murmansk at all. He could have gone directly to the headquarters of the militia and requested a propusk for Nikel. Many persons who visit relatives in Nikel do so, and anyone could do it if he said that he wished to go there to seek work. In order to visit for any other purpose, one had to have a reference in Nikel. There is a shortage of manpower in Nikel; the labor market is very fluid.
11. Source tried to get a bus which leaves Murmansk at 1000 hours for Nikel, but the seats were all sold, so he could not get on it. He was told that he would have to get on the waiting list. He knocked on the window of a kiosk near the bus stop and a woman who tended the kiosk entered source as No. 15 for the next day's bus. He did not have to pay anything for this. The next day, 19 October, he took his seat on the bus. The terminal bus station in Murmansk is located about 200 meters from the Arktika Hotel as one goes south on the street and turns right at the first cross street. The terminal station with the bus kiosk is on the left side of the street. Source arrived about half an hour before the bus departure time, which was just the time of the arrival of the bus. Other people were already waiting. The bus had a sign over the windshield saying "Murmansk-Nikel". The bus left quite promptly and it was fully occupied on departure. There were women and children, civilians, and uniformed persons. Nobody had to stand. Tickets were sold by a woman conductor prior to departure. The fare to Nikel was 87 rubles and the conductor tore the ticket from a roll. The ticket did not have to be shown en route and it was not turned in on arrival at destination.
12. The bus drove out of Murmansk along prospekt Stalin or one of the sidestreets nearest to it. Source is not certain, but he thinks that the road out of Murmansk is at first an asphalt road, but after a short distance becomes a cobblestone road all the way to Kola (N 68-52, E 33-00). After crossing the bridge at Kola the bus took a dirt road (gruntovaya doroga).

SECRET-US OFFICIALS ONLY

SECRET-US OFFICIALS ONLY

-4-

The bridge at Kola is long and it has two lanes but no railroad tracks. Source went all the way from Murmansk to Nikel on the same bus with the same driver and conductor. There were no long stops anywhere and the bus arrived in Nikel at about 1800 hours the same day. Source was told that the distance from Murmansk to Nikel is about 240 kilometers.

13. The entire stretch of road between Murmansk and Nikel had two lanes and was wide enough so that even two large vehicles could pass each other without slowing down. The road between Murmansk and Pechenga (N 69-33, E 31-12) seemed to be an old one; some parts of it were hilly with many sharp turns. The road from Pechenga Crossroads to Nikel was, on the other hand, relatively new and very much broader, with an even, straight, and good surface. Source did not observe any large improvement work or new installations en route but at several places saw a couple of men working on the edge of the road. The bus passed several road junctions but source did not notice any guide signs at the crossroads or notice whether there were any there at all. Source does not know to what places the other roads led.
14. On the right side of the road as one travels from Murmansk to Nikel there are kilometer posts approximately two meters high. The posts are painted, possibly yellow, and have white signs in the shape of a snowplow on them with figures in black on them. Source presumes that the figures give the number of kilometers from Murmansk to the end of the road and the reverse. Source only saw one side of the signs on the posts and, from Kola on, the numbers became larger on the signs which faced in the direction of Murmansk. On driving out of Pechenga Crossroads, he thinks that the same was the case and he presumes that the numbering begins anew from Pechenga Crossroads. Source is not certain about this but thinks that such is the case. There are also many different warning signs (turn, danger, etc.) along the road, and at the bridges he noticed signs with numbers on them. What these meant he did not know. Source saw no boundary signs. The bus passed over many bridges on the way, big and small, old and new, over small rivers, creeks, etc. Source thinks that the bridges are all made of wood. The bridge just past Kola was large, possibly 100 meters in length.
15. Source has neither heard nor seen evidence that there is any railroad under construction between Murmansk and Nikel, but at the crossroads at Pechenga he noticed a bridge under construction somewhat south of the road.
16. Along the road from Murmansk to Pechenga Crossroads, source saw numerous small military stations at intervals of 15 to 20 kilometers from each other. The first one he saw was about 12 kilometers from Murmansk. Military personnel got on and off the bus at these stations. Source does not think that any civilian passengers got off the bus at Pechenga Crossroads. The houses along the road were all standard frame buildings erected within the last two or three years. At the military posts there were generally clusters of five to seven buildings. Source thinks that there were housing potentialities for about a company. There were also long barrack-like frame buildings at some places. Source cannot say whether the buildings were fenced in or not, and he is not able to state whether the stations were military posts or depots. There were also single houses along the road. Around them could be seen domestic animals, and source thinks that they were dwellings for the road workers. Source saw no business establishments along the way.
17. The road was apparently patrolled by soldiers. On the stretch between Murmansk and Pechenga Crossroads, source saw many soldiers on the road. Most of them were unarmed. A few of them were armed with submachine guns or other hand weapons. These soldiers generally had green shoulder boards, but some had red and others had black shoulder boards. Source saw only a few sailors and these were all in automobiles.
18. All the way from Murmansk, source sat and conversed with a man. Source told him that he was going to Nikel for work and that he was unacquainted there and intended to go to a hotel. The man said that this would be useless since there were no accommodations to be had; this man offered source a place to stay. Therefore, source went home with the man and they had a drink together. Source stayed at this man's home for four nights without paying anything. The man was a foreman (prorab) in the combine.

SECRET-US OFFICIALS ONLY

SECRET/US OFFICIALS ONLY

-5-

19. On 20 October 1953, source went to the division office of the militia on ulitsa Mikoyana. He does not recall the building number. Here he turned in his passport, propusk, and the landlord's housebook. He was told that the passport could be picked up again on the morning of the 22 October. Here he also filled out two blanks for registration which were identical with those which he had filled out at the militia office in Murmansk. He did not do anything more that day but wandered around Nikel, and ate at a place in the vicinity of a hill where there was a factory. He was told that the smokestack on the factory was the second highest in the world. Source also visited a large number of shops.

25X1

25X1

SECRET/US OFFICIALS ONLY